<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system comprising:

~~a module~~ <u>means for</u> determining a distribution ratio at which an input traffic to ~~an~~ ingress edge ~~node~~ <u>nodes</u> is distributed to each of a plurality of paths set up between said ingress edge ~~node~~ <u>nodes</u> and ~~an~~ egress edge ~~node~~ <u>nodes</u> that correspond to a traffic engineering section a network; and

~~a module~~ <u>means for</u> indicating ~~which unit,~~ <u>whether</u> a sharing control unit corresponding to <u>each of</u> said ingress edge ~~node~~ <u>nodes</u> or ~~other~~ <u>a</u> concentration control unit, <u>that</u> executes a process of determining the distribution ratio at which the input traffic to said ingress edge ~~node~~ <u>nodes</u> is distributed to each of the plurality of paths.

2. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 1, wherein said indicating ~~module~~ <u>means</u> indicates ~~which unit,~~ said sharing control unit or said concentration control unit, <u>that</u> takes charge of the determining process in accordance with load states of said sharing control unit and of said concentration control unit.

3. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 1, wherein said concentration control unit is a network control device concentratedly controlling a plurality of nodes including said ingress edge ~~node~~ <u>nodes</u> and said egress edge ~~node~~ <u>nodes</u> existing in the traffic engineering section of the network.

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4. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 3, wherein said indicating ~~module~~ means is provided in a state monitoring device outside said network control device.

5. (Original)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 1, wherein the network is an MPLS-based label switching network.

6. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 1, wherein when said sharing control unit corresponding to each of said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes gathers statistic information showing a load state in the network, said sharing control unit gathers directly the statistic information from said nodes capable of using a notification message based on a specified protocol, and gathers, through said concentration control unit, the statistic information from said nodes incapable of using the notification message based on the specified protocol.

7. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system comprising:

~~a~~ statistic information gathering ~~module~~ means for obtaining from respective nodes, as statistic information, a traffic state of links connected to said respective nodes in a network;

~~a~~ route determining ~~module~~ means determining, based on the obtained statistic information, at least one route for extending a plurality of paths between ~~an~~ ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes and ~~an~~ egress edge ~~node~~ nodes that correspond to a traffic engineering section in the network; and

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a load sharing determining ~~module~~ means for determining, based on the obtained statistic information, a distribution ratio at which a traffic should be distributed to respective paths on the determined route,

wherein ~~active modules among~~ said statistic information gathering ~~module~~ means for, said route determining ~~module~~ means and said load sharing determining ~~module~~ means are switched over to between said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes and ~~said~~ a network control device concentratedly controlling said respective nodes, mutually.

8. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, wherein said ingress edge node includes ~~an~~ allocating ~~module~~ means for allocating packets arrived at, to the paths on said route on the basis of the distribution ratio, indicated by said load sharing determining ~~module~~ means, at which the traffic should be distributed to the paths on the route.

9. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, further comprising a state monitoring device including:

a ~~module~~ means for gathering and judging load states of said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes and said network control device; and

~~an~~ indicating ~~module~~ means for switching over ~~active modules among~~ said statistic information gathering ~~module~~ means, said route determining ~~module~~ means and said load sharing determining ~~module~~ means to between said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes and said network control device in accordance with the load states, mutually.

10. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, wherein when said ingress edge ~~node gathers~~ nodes gather the statistic information showing a load state in the network, said ingress edge ~~node gathers~~ nodes gather directly the statistic information from said nodes capable of using a notification message based on a specified protocol, and gather, through said network control device, the statistic information from said nodes incapable of using the notification message based on the specified protocol.

11. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, wherein if said ingress edge node does not include said load sharing determining ~~module~~ means, said load sharing determining ~~module~~ means of said network control device is made to operate.

12. (Original)   A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, wherein the network is an MPLS-based label switching network.

13. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control method comprising:

determining a distribution ratio at which an input traffic to ~~an~~ ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes is distributed to each of a plurality of paths set up between said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes and ~~an~~ egress edge ~~node~~ nodes that correspond to a traffic engineering section in a network; and

indicating ~~which unit,~~ whether a sharing control unit corresponding to each of said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes or ~~other~~ a concentration control unit, that executes a process of determining the distribution ratio at which the input traffic to said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes is distributed to each of the plurality of paths.

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14. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control method comprising:

obtaining from respective nodes, as statistic information, a traffic state of links connected to said respective nodes in a network;

determining, based on the obtained statistic information, at least one route for extending a plurality of paths between ~~an~~ ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes and ~~an~~ egress edge ~~node~~ nodes that correspond to a traffic engineering section in the network;

determining, based on the obtained statistic information, a distribution ratio at which a traffic should be distributed to respective paths on the determined route; and

switching over processing ~~modules~~ means of said ~~respective~~ obtaining step and said determining steps to between said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes and a control device concentratedly controlling said respective nodes, mutually.

15. (Currently Amended)   A wide area load sharing control method according to claim 14, further comprising:

gathering and judging load states of said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes and said control device; and

giving an indication of switching over the processing ~~modules~~ means to between said ingress edge ~~node~~ nodes and said control device mutually in accordance with the load states.